

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 ARA-06

/068 W

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R 100931Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0083

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 8404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, NL

SUBJ: DUTCH DIPLOMAT VISITS LUANDA

REF: ABIDJAN 5149 (NOTAL)

1. DUTCH CHARGE IN ABIDJAN, EDUARD ROELL, VISITED LUANDA LAST WEEK IN AUGUST. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND TO PRESENT HIS LETTERS OF ACCREDITATION AS CHARGE. ROELL WILL REMAIN IN ABIDJAN FOR TIME BEING. HOWEVER, GON IS ANXIOUS ESTABLISH PERMANENT PRESENCE IN ANGOLA, AND ROELL IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION.

2. ROELL TOLD CHARGE THAT HE SAW CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN PHYSICAL SITUATION IN LUANDA AND IN SMOOTHNESS OF GOVERNMENT OPERATION SINCE HIS EARLIER VISIT DESCRIBED REFTEL. HE AGAIN IMPRESSED BY ENERGY AND INDUSTRY OF ANGOLAN OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT MILITARY SITUATION IS PROBABLY DETERIORATING. UNITA FORCES, WITH STRONG TRIBAL SUPPORT, CONTINUING ACTIVE GUERRILLA
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OPERATION THROUGHOUT SOUTHER HALF OF ANGOLA TO POINT

WHERE "EVEN CUBANS" ARE AFRAID TO VENTURE INTO BRUSH COUNTRY. FNLA ACTIVITY HAS ALSO APPARENTLY NOT DIMINISHED.

3. ALTHOUGH ROELL BELIEVES NETO STILL IN CONTROL, RADICAL ELEMENTS WITHIN MPLA, LED BY NITO ALVES, ARE INCREASINGLY ACTIVE AND OUTSPOKEN. NITO ALVES IS BACKED BY MANY BLACKS JEALOUS OF CONTINUED MULATTO AND PORTUGUESE PRESENCE IN LUANDA. ROELL SAID RADICAL ELEMENT IN ANGOLAN MILITARY WAS PRESSING FOR MAJOR OPERATION AGAINST FNLA WHICH WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY INVOLVE INTRUSION INTO ZAIRE. IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, TALK OF POSSIBLE COUP ATTEMPTS WAS COMMON IN LUANDA.

4. CUBAN PRESENCE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE DIMINISHED, HOWEVER ROELL NOTICED LARGE NUMBER OF CUBANS IN MILITARY UNIFORM WHO CLEARLY NOT INVOLVED IN MILITARY FUNCTIONS. THESE INVOLVE LOWER AND MIDDLE MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AS WELL AS TECHNICIANS IN SUCH FIELDS AS PLUMBING, AUTOMOBILE REPAIR AND EVEN BAKING.

5. WOULD AGAIN APPRECIATE DISCRETION IN CITING ROELL AS SOURCE THIS INFORMATION.
COOKE

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NNN

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